

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Willis McLaughlin began employment with the state of South Dakota's Department of Transportation on March 28, 1965; and,

Whereas, The Transit section was faced with many challenges over the years, such as coordination of rural transportation; reconditioning of used buses; ordering brand new buses within a short time frame; and scoping, implementing, and building numerous new bus barns across the state of South Dakota; and,

Whereas, Willis was instrumental in the expeditious replacement of River Cities Transit's buses that were melted into an unrecognizable pile of iron in the Pierre Baling Facility fire; and,

Whereas, Willis and co-workers traveled thousands of miles and frequented only the best small town bakeries across the state, always bringing a few baked goods back to the office to share with co-workers; and,

Whereas, Willis and his wife, Della, watched as their children, Tyler and Tarra, grew into young adults. Willis is a charter member of the Pierre Boys & Girls Club and remained involved for many years, was active in Boy Scouts, a follower of Governor sports, as well as many other family and community activities; and,

Whereas, After 38 years and 7 months of employment with the Department of Transportation, Willis has decided to retire on November 7, 2003, and hopes to travel to more car shows and watch some great college basketball; and,

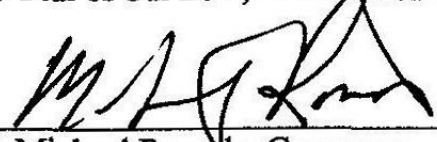
Whereas, It is fitting and proper for the Governor to recognize milestones in the lives of the state's family of employees:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim November 7, 2003, as

WILLIS McLAUGHLIN DAY

in South Dakota, and I join his co-workers, family, and friends in congratulating him on this well-earned retirement.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-eighth Day of October in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.


M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:


Chris Nelson, Secretary of State

